

From: Rob Dunne
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 6:27am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The proposed settlement in its current state is bad.

I have read the proposed settlement, and I think it is not good enough. While the settlement does try to protect retaliation vs. OEMs, ISVs and IHVs who support alternatives to Windows, the settlement does not make sure that Microsoft raises no artificial barriers against non Microsoft operating systems which implement the APIs needed to run application programs written for Windows.

Also too many of the important API's would remain documented. Especially since they can easily claim it is for security reasons.

Another problem is the only real possible competition to MS in the server realm (not even talking desktop) is open source software. However by putting unreasonable restrictions on documentation and by patents covering Windows APIs remaining undisclosed the settlement is not helping the only possible competition to Microsoft's monopoly.

Another thing the settlement ignores is Microsoft's lock in by using undocumented file formats. This creates a High Application Barrier to Entry and creates lock-in. (yes many office file formats are documented, but the documentation is poor, inaccurate, and incomplete.)

Thank you,
Robert Dunne
System Administrator